

MAR 23 1973

AMERICAN COMMITTEE
for the WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

515 PARK AVENUE / NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022 / PLaza 2-1300

LILLIE SHULTZ
Director for Public Relations
THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE



March 21, 1973

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you very much for your help. It is good to know that you will sign the letter on the Katzir Center.

You will be pleased to have this list of those who will be the co-signatories of that letter.

I'm also enclosing a copy of the final version of the letter which embodies suggestions of the various signatories. You will recognize that it is intrinsically the same as the original draft with some improvements.

We will now proceed to process the letter and hope it will receive the response it deserves.

With appreciation and best wishes,

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read 'Lillie Shultz', is written over the typed name.

Lillie Shultz

LS/ss
Enclosures

MAR 23 1973

SIGNATORIES

Christian B. Anfinsen

Melvin Calvin

Gerald M. Edelman

John T. Edsall

Arthur Kornberg

Philip Handler

Joshua Lederberg

David Nachmansohn

Severo Ochoa

Walter A. Rosenblith

Dear _____:

We are asking you to join us in the endowment of the Aharon Katzir-Katchalsky Center of Physical Biology at the Weizmann Institute of Science. The Center is being established for two principal reasons. The first is to memorialize this great scientist and Israeli leader who lost his life in the Lod Airport massacre on May 30, 1972. The other reason is to sustain the crucial areas of polymer and membrane science that have been so impoverished by his death. Your gift, moreover, will serve as a personal token of your own dedication to the advancement of knowledge for human progress, imperative to curb the erosion of human values imperiled by our current era of violence.

* * *

Aharon Katzir-Katchalsky was the founder and head of the Polymer Research Department of the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovot, Israel. His pervasive interest was the pursuit of knowledge in the sciences, in the arts, in the humanities, which won him international recognition and acclaim. He was a citizen of the world - in the furtherance of science, in the cause of world peace, in the strengthening of relations between science and society.

* * *

In a tribute to Dr. Katzir-Katchalsky by the National Academy of Sciences, of which he was a foreign member, Dr. Harrison Brown, the Academy's Foreign Secretary, spoke for all of us when he said:

"Those of us who had the personal privilege of benefiting from his warm friendship, incisive wisdom and breadth of vision have lost part of ourselves with his passing...All of us are determined that his death should advance the purpose of his life and we re-dedicate ourselves to the type of world based upon reason and understanding to which he devoted so much of himself."

Will you join with us in helping to assure attainment of this central goal?

* * *

The Center will be devoted to the advancement of research in the areas of biological macromolecules, membrane structure and function, and theoretical biology - fields in which Dr. Katzir-Katchalsky gained international recognition.

The sum of two million dollars is being sought as a permanent endowment, the income of which would be used to finance the operations of the Center. This in addition to the contributions of the Weizmann Institute itself. The Center is expected to serve as a source of ideas, encourage the work of young scientists, as well as to foster international cooperation.

An International Committee of distinguished scholars, headed by Nobel Laureate Dr. Manfred Eigen, Director of the Max Planck Institute at Göttingen, Germany, is acting as advisor to the Weizmann Institute in developing the Center. A list of the membership of this Committee is attached.

* * *

With his colleagues, Dr. Aharon Katzir-Katchalsky had developed a new science called mechano-chemistry, and a mechano-chemical engine capable of directly converting chemical energy into mechanical energy without any intermediate energy transformation. His pioneering in the field of polyelectrolytes has become an integral part of polymer chemistry and biochemistry. A specialist in the field of the thermodynamics of the irreversible processes, and especially its application to biological membranes, he had more recently turned his imagination to the application of his concepts to the nervous system and to the brain.

But he was more than that, as the signatories to this letter can attest from personal knowledge. He was a creative personality of unusual breadth, brilliance, warmth and wit, and a man of profound wisdom. As a lecturer and as a teacher, he was unparalleled in his capacity to communicate, as the size and calibre of his audiences in universities throughout the United States proved.

He was interested in narrowing the gap between science and the humanities. He regarded "the great challenge of international relations and science" to be "the scientification, enlightenment and development" of the underdeveloped world. He was deeply concerned with "the morality of science and its ethical principles" and their "direct impact on modern society"; and advocated that scientists should "undertake now to adapt themselves to the needs of contemporary mankind".

* * *

The immediate program for the Center is threefold:

Establishment of Katzir Distinguished Visiting
Professorships in the fields of Physical Biology

and Macromolecular Science. It is expected that a Visiting Professor will, during the course of his tenure, present a series of lectures at the Weizmann Institute of Science and at other institutes of higher learning in Israel.

Creation of Katzir Fellowships to encourage work in one of the many fields in which Aharon Katzir was interested. The Fellowships are to be available both for work at the Weizmann Institute of Science and at research laboratories outside Israel.

Holding of Katzir Memorial Symposia in Israel and other countries (which at times may take the form of Workshops or Summer Schools) devoted to subjects in the fields of Physical Biology and Macromolecular Science.

This year is the inaugural year for the Center. It is proposed to name the first Visiting Professor and to award three Fellowships. On June 23, 1973, the first Aharon Katzir-Katchalsky Conference will open at the Weizmann Institute. It will be a workshop, continuing until June 28, addressed to STABILITY AND ORIGIN OF BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION. Under the joint auspices of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the European Molecular Biological Organization and the International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics, distinguished scientists from many parts of the world and Israel will participate in the deliberations.

* * *

Many gifts offered spontaneously from scientists and other friends of Dr. Aharon Katzir-Katchalsky have been received. This letter is the first invitation to a selected public to share in the permanent tribute to Dr. Katzir-Katchalsky dedicated to the furtherance of the high ideals for humanity which he served with such distinction. We hope you will be moved to give today.

Sincerely,

P.S. Checks should be made payable to the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science and are tax deductible.